

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

DMHAS Budget

February 18, 2010

Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Evangeline Sargent and I am a registered voter from Oakdale, CT.

I am before you today to speak about the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services budget.

Please do not take any money from them. The department's load continues to increase yet they get no more money which is like a cut.

We also need the savings from the closing of Cedar Ridge Hospital – over \$15 million-- to go to community mental health services and housing—not the general fund.

This money should be used for Housing Vouchers for Supportive Housing to keep people stabilized and improve their lives. Supportive Housing can offer people support and employment services with permanent, independent and affordable rental housing

Please keep this all in mind. I am saying this as a consumer, President of the Southeastern Mental Health Authority Community Advisory Board and as a resident. Remember to Keep the Promise made ten years ago to use money saved by closing state hospitals for community based services and housing.

Thank you.

Evangeline Sargent

Oakdale CT